

March 5, 2016

California State Board of Education
1430 N. St., Suite 5111
Sacramento, CA 94814

Re: Support for Bataan Legacy Historical Society's Recommendations on History/Social Sciences Curriculum Framework (Grade 11, Chapter 16)

Dear Members of the California State Board of Education:

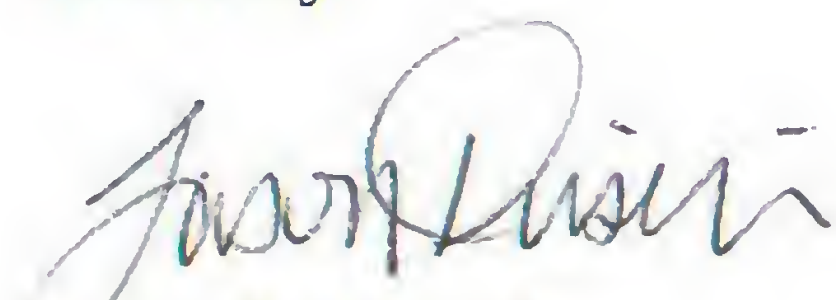
I support all of the enclosed recommendations made by the Bataan Legacy Historical Society on the history/social sciences curriculum framework for Grade 11, Chapter 16, in accordance with Assembly Bill AB199 (2011).

It has been almost 75 years since the Philippines (U.S. colony from 1898-1946) and its people were called upon to put up a gallant fight against the Empire of Japan after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the Philippines. The Filipino and American soldiers of the U.S. Army Forces in the Far East (USAFEF), who suffered massive disease and starvation as a result of the Europe First Policy, were able to disrupt the 52-day timetable of the Imperial Japanese Army by defending the Bataan peninsula for 99 days. The ensuing Bataan Death March led to the death of 10,000 Filipino and 750 American soldiers. Another 20,000 Filipino and 1,600 American soldiers died while imprisoned at Camp O'Donnell. While everyone knows of Pearl Harbor and the European Theater of War, the war in the Philippines and the Pacific Theater are almost forgotten.

Today, we have an opportunity to set the record straight by putting this seminal point of WWII history in the history curriculum framework of California. It will be the first time that American students in high school will learn of this great sacrifice made for the freedom that they are enjoying today. California will lead the country in doing this and we are asking you to implement a history curriculum framework that will accurately portray the sacrifices made by Filipinos and Americans during World War II.

We support the recommendations made by Bataan Legacy Historical Society and urge you to do the same. Thank you very much.

Sincerely



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Enc: *recommendations made by Bataan Legacy Historical Society, 2 pages*

HSSC SMC Approved Text (Summary of Actions 24March2016)	BLHS Comments on HSSC SMC Approved Text	Bataan Legacy Recommended Tex
The US army, which included American and Filipino troops, led by General Douglas MacArthur, were unable to defend the territory and strategically retreated to the jungles of the Bataan Peninsula.	This version overlooks the fact that majority of the troops were Filipinos	The U.S. Army Forces in the Far East (USAFFE) comprised of American and Filipino troops who manned seven-eighths of the main line of resistance and were under the command of General Douglas MacArthur, were unable to defend the territory and strategically retreated to the jungles of the Bataan Peninsula.
Although American and Filipino troops lacked ammunition and food, and thousands were sick from malaria and dengue fever, they managed to defend Bataan for 99 days.	The significance of the Battle of Bataan must be stated as it delayed the 52-day timetable of the Imperial Japanese Army despite massive disease and starvation.	Despite suffering from massive disease and starvation and fighting without any air support, the USAFFE troops performed a delaying action that disrupted the 52-day timetable of the Imperial Japanese Army by defending Bataan for 99 days.
MacArthur fled to Australia during this period, vowing, "I shall return."	"I shall return" does not add value to the framework and continues to perpetuate the MacArthur myth. He did not flee but was ordered to leave for Australia.	On March 12, 1942, General MacArthur left the Philippines for Australia.
On April 9, 1942 General Edward P. King, Jr., US commander of all ground troops in Bataan, surrendered his 76,000 sick and starving troops (American and Filipino) to the Japanese, one of the most grievous defeats in American military history. The captured soldiers were then forced to march more than 60 miles north in what became known as the Bataan Death March. Conditions during the march were brutal. POWs who couldn't keep up due to exhaustion or a lack of food or water, they were beaten, bayoneted, shot, or in some cases, beheaded by Japanese soldiers; approximately 10,000 Filipinos and 750 Americans died along the way. If the POWs survived the grueling trek, they were packed into pre-war boxcars for transport to prison camps. Thousands of soldiers died in the journey and in the camps from sickness and starvation.	The fate of the American soldiers of USAFFE must be included in this curriculum.	On April 9, 1942, General Edward P. King, Jr., Commanding General of Luzon Force, surrendered 63,000 Filipino and 12,000 American troops suffering from starvation and disease. They were forced to march some 60 miles to their prison camp at Camp O'Donnell with no provisions for food, water or shelter. Those who could no longer go on were beaten, bayoneted, shot and in some cases even beheaded by their Japanese captors. Approximately 10,000 Filipinos and 750 Americans died in what became known as the Bataan Death March. Once inside Camp O'Donnell, approximately 20,000 Filipinos and 1600 Americans died. A majority of the American prisoners were later transported under dismal conditions in the hulls of unmarked vessels termed as "Hell Ships" to Japan, China, Formosa and Korea where they worked as slave laborers. Thousands died en route by friendly fire. Many more died while serving as slave laborers.

Over the next three years, the US employed an island-hopping strategy to push back the Japanese advance. In February 1945 American and Filipino forces finally recaptured the Bataan Peninsula; Manila was liberated the next month. By the end of the war, approximately 1,000,000 civilians had died and Manila became the second most devastated city in the world after Warsaw.	Thousands of Filipino guerrillas laid the groundwork for the eventual liberation of the Philippines during the 3 years prior to the liberation.	The U.S. Army Forces in the Far East (USAFEF) comprised of American and Filipino troops who manned seven-eighths of the main line of resistance and were under the command of General Douglas MacArthur, were unable to defend the territory and strategically retreated to the jungles of the Bataan Peninsula.
The US army, which included American and Filipino troops, led by General Douglas MacArthur, were unable to defend the territory and strategically retreated to the jungles of the Bataan Peninsula.	The Capture of Bataan Peninsula is no longer significant at this point. The Battle of Leyte Gulf is the seminal event that destroyed the Imperial Japanese Navy leading to the defeat of Japan.	During the next 3 years, the Filipinos and Americans formed guerrilla groups which laid the groundwork for the liberation. On October 23 to 26, 1944, the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the largest naval battle ever, destroyed the Imperial Japanese Navy. Manila was liberated by March 1945 by intense fighting killing 100,000 civilians, approximately half by Japanese massacre. Manila became the second most devastated city in the world after Warsaw, Poland and by the end of the war approximately 1,000,000 civilians had died in the Philippines.